

# **Categorical Exclusion**

**Prepared by**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
**Bureau of Land Management**

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# **Chapter 1. PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA COMPLIANCE RECORD**

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**BLM Office:Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management**

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907-474-2200

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.:** FF095274 2930.00 (AK012)

Juliette Boselli  
DBA: Too-Loo-uk River Guides  
P.O. Box 106  
Denali National Park, Alaska 99755

**Proposed Action Title/Type:**Special Recreation Permit

**Description of Proposed Action:**

The applicant, Juliette Boselli, of Too-Loo-uk River Guides(Too-Loo), has requested authorization for a special recreation permit (SRP)for wildlife viewing in the southern NPR-A. The proposed action would authorize Too-Loo-uk River Guides to conduct two river rafting trips in the NPR-A. The first proposed trip (June 11, 2013 – June 20, 2013) would be to float the Kokolik River. The second proposed trip (August 6-16) would start on the upper Nigu River at the National Park Service Boundary to the mouth of the Etivluk and Colville Rivers. Ms. Boselli has held a BLM Arctic Field Office SRP on and off since 2007. In 2007, she made a similar trip on the Nigu and was permitted for a similar Kokolik River trip in 2012.

The proposed float trips would consist of three rafts and 12 people, including guides. During the trips, Too-Loo would take their clients on day hikes away from the river. Access to the sites would be via charter flights. The groups would take a charter out of Fairbanks with Wright Air Service to the Ivotuk landing strip. From there they would fly with Coyote Air to the put- in points. From the take out point, they would fly with Coyote Air to Ivotuk and back to Fairbanks with Wright Air Service. There would be approximately 2 to 3 landings at each location

Camping would take place along the river. All supplies and equipment would be carried with the groups and transported via raft. Drinking water would be obtained from the river and filtered with a ceramic commercial water purifier. Too-Loo would make use of a fire pan to burn burnable garbage. Non burnable garbage, which would be cleaned of any food or smells, would be carried out. Human waste would be buried by each individual in a deep cathole at least 100 yards from water and toilet paper would be brought back to camp and burned.

All food would be stored in airtight and waterproof containers with most stored on the boats when in camp. Clients are not allowed to bring food in their tents or in their personal gear. Too-Loo would make every effort to avoid impacts to the riparian areas and would try to camp on gravel bars or other durable surfaces rather than sensitive tundra areas. Rocks for securing tents would be spread around and put back in their natural place to minimize the appearance of a once used camp.

Too-Loo makes pepper spray and air horns available for use as bear deterrents to all of their clients. At least one guide would have a firearm for bear protection. Too-Loo would advise their

clients not to disturb any archeological site and stress the importance of leaving any remains where they are found.

A SAT phone, ground to air radio and GPS accompany all trips. All guides will have taken advanced first aid, wilderness first aid or wilderness first responder training and have current certification as well as swift water rescue training and current CPR certification. The guides would carry a major first aid kit, a second minor first aid kit, and a backboard

### Location of Proposed Action:

### Legal Description:

#### Trip 1

Kokolik River Trip			
Township	Range	River Section on BLM managed land	River Section not on BLM managed Land.
Township	Range	Description	
1 North	39 West	1-2, 10-15, 22-26, 35-36	--
1 South	39 West	5-8, 18	--
1 South	40 West	12-14, 21-28, 33-35	--
2 South	40 West	3-9, 17-18	--
2 South	41 West	12-14, 21-29, 32-33 BLM Lands.	Sec 31 State Land
2 South	42 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
3 South	42 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
4 South	42 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
5 South	42 West	27, 34 BLM Managed Lands Only	State Land
6 South	42 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
7 South	42 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
7 South	43 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land
8 South	43 West	No BLM Managed Lands.	State Land

#### Trip 2

Nigu/Etivluk Rivers			
Township	Range	River Section on BLM managed land	River Section not on BLM managed Land.
6 South	18 West	24-26, 35, 36	--
7 South	18 West	2,11,14,15,21,22,27,28,33,34	--
8 South	18 West	3,9,10,15,16,20,21,28,29,32	--
9 South	18 West	6,7,18,19,30	--
9 South	19 West	1,12,13,24,25,35,36	--
10 South	19 West	1,2,11,14,15,20-22,28-31	--
10 South	20 West	25,35,36	--
11 South	20 West	13,14,23,24,26	--
11 South	19 West	7,18,19,29-32	--
12 South	19 West	5-8,18,19,29,30	--
34 North	11 East	7,17-20,29,30,32,33	--
33 North	11 East	5,8,14-17,23,24	--
33 North	12 East	29,30,32	--
32 North	12 East	2-4,11,13,14,24	--

## Part I: Plan Conformance Review

### Part I: Plan Conformance Review

#### Chapter 1 **PLAN CONFORMANCE / NEPA**

#### **COMPLIANCE RECORD**

#### *Part I: Plan Conformance Review*



### The National Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976

The proposed action is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976. The applicant will be provided with stipulations entitled “FF095274 Too-Loo-uk River Guides 2013 Summer Stipulations” and “United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management Commercial Land Based Special Recreation Permit Stipulations.”

Date March 18, 2013

/s/Donna L. Wixon

Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office

## Part II: NEPA Review and Decision

### Categorical Exclusion Review

This proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 national Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 4- H. BLM Categorical Exclusions.

**“Issuance of Special Recreation Permits for day use or overnight use up to 14 consecutive nights; that impacts no more than 3 staging area acres; and/or for recreational travel along roads, trails, or in areas authorized in a land use plan.”**

The proposed action has been reviewed to determine if any extraordinary circumstances described in 43 CFR 46.210 and 46.215, apply.

The proposed action will not meet any of the extraordinary circumstances listed below.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X

2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

Date March 18, 2013

/s/Donna L. Wixon

Natural Resource Specialist, Arctic Field Office